

Seminar on the relevance of Kautilya's Arthshastra in the Indian Political System



On September 19, 2021, the Department of Economics in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, Mahatma Gandhi Shati Smarak Mahavidyalaya Garua Maksudpur, Ghazipur organized a one-day seminar on the theme of **“Relevance of Kautilya's Arthshastra in Indian Political System”**.

The head of the Department of Hindi and the incumbent Principal Shri Sushil Tiwari made the ceremonial welcome of the guest speaker. Mr. Ratnesh Kumar, Assistant Professor has been the key resource person for this guest lecture. He commenced this seminar by throwing light on life history of Kautilya the political guru of Chandragupta Maurya. He added that normative setting of Kautilya's *Arthashastra* is the political unification of common cultural Indian subcontinent. Within this, the *Arthashastra* has a twofold aim. First, it seeks to show how the ruler should protect his territory. Second, is how territory should be acquired. The end or primary goal in the *Arthashastra* is *Yogakshema* – protection, security and stability of the State. Today, political unification of common cultural Indian subcontinent as in the text is no more applicable as India is a sovereign nation-state less parts of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh. However, many theoretical concepts and ideas in the text can be applied in internal and external matters related to strategic studies and also contribute to strengthen the Global International Studies from enduring Indian traditions. The concepts that need to be realised, are not only for waging war/application of force, but can also be used in strategic vocabulary in all disciplines of social science including peace research - a task yet to be undertaken by contemporary scholars.

Mr. Subhash Chandra another speaker opinionated that In recent times, there has been a steady growth in literature on the defence, security, and international-related aspects of Kautilya's *Arthashastra*.¹ This trend has now made it possible to go beyond the primary stage of just introduction to the various basic concepts and vocabulary in the text. The topic of Comprehensive National Power also has been analysed by many scholars satisfactorily.² As the study, debate and scholarship on revisiting and reinterpreting Indian heritage gains momentum, other



levels of analysis emerge, which now need to be examined. In this regard, strategic thinking and ‘how to think’ assumes importance and this paper attempts to introduce this aspect related to contemporary strategic studies. It explains issues and concepts on learning, the intellectual part of strategic thinking, warcraft and hybrid warfare, and understanding strategy and how it resides in the dynamic *Mandala* theory.

Finally, the workshop was ended by vote of thanks passed by Dr.Ramashankar.



प्राचार्य

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